

June 2016

Wild Rose United Summer Newsletter

THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE
WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

PSALM 118:24



Valli Stuart- Choir Director Retires

With sadness, but with deep appreciation for her long and faithful service to Wild Rose, we announce that our choir director, Valli Stuart, will retire at the end of June 2016.

Valli has been our choir director for the past nine years. Working closely with the dedicated choir, ministers, organist, and worship team, Valli has been responsible for selecting, rehearsing, and directing all the choral and special music in the church. She has coordinated many concerts over the years, as well as Wild Rose's participation in the shared Twelfth Night musical celebrations, co-organized by the United Churches in the northern quadrants of the city. Valli was formerly choir director at Renfrew United Church; by her estimation she has put in about thirty

years of service singing in choirs.

"Well done, my good and faithful servant" (we read in the Parable of the Talents in Matthew's gospel). "Let's celebrate together!" We hope that Valli and her husband Lorne will enjoy some well-deserved time together after all those week-ends that Valli was busy with her choral work.

Open Connections & Communications



Wild Rose's Ruth Peach was one of eight winners of the UC Alberta & NW Conference 2016 Photo Contest! The winnings, a \$25 Chapters gift certificate, will go towards a new Children's Bible for The Kids' Zone.

Thank you, to Ruth, for submitting your photo.

Sun, Festivals, Spiritual Recharging: Summer Pleasures

Ministers' Report

As we write, the annual Lilac Festival has just come to a successful conclusion, with more than 100,000 people swirling and twirling and listening to music and eating. This kicks off the annual cycle of our city's festivals, and of course there are festivals and get-togethers all across the country. If you are someone who enjoys going to festivals and concerts, may they be happy and fun for you. And even if you cannot make it out, may the positive energy that seems to come from such events touch your spirit.

Summer: a time of renewal and refreshing and recharging of batteries. It's important that we take time in the summer for ourselves; sense things growing; watch people floating down the rivers; watch the leaves rustling in the trees. We hope and trust that this summer will be happy and peaceful for you all. At the same time, should there be any reason you would like to chat about anything, we are going to be here for most of the summer, and the office will remain open. Please get in touch if you would like to. Geoffrey is also happy to come out for visits, provided of course that there is lemonade involved!

This summer, we will keep the church open all summer and worship here every week. We give thanks to the generous folks from Northminster, and are glad to have shared worship with them for many years, but this year we are on our own. Our worship will be a little different than during the rest of the year; we will use music videos to set out a theme for that day's worship. Worship is intergenerational and children are invited to sit with their families or at the activity table. Staff are going to share worship leadership, along with other congregational volunteers. We are looking forward to a rich and full experience of worship here at the church. Come on out, and consider inviting a friend or visiting relative as you do.

And now, a summer blessing for you all:

*May there be rain, but not too much;
May there be sun, but not to scorch us;
May there be family (or friends, or both)—
but never so much, or so many, as to leave us worn out.
May there be joy-filled surprises.
May there be beauty, stunning and proud as well as quiet and subtle.
May there be deep peace, the peace that surpasses understanding.
May all this, and more, be yours this summer.*



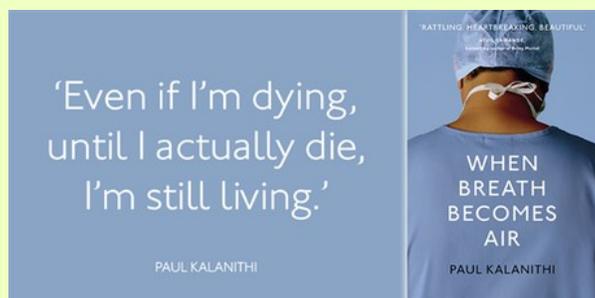
Book Discussion in September: summer reading

When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi

It is easy reading and profoundly moving as Paul Kalanithi, a young neurosurgeon, faces terminal cancer and asks questions about what makes life worth living. Put your name on the Calgary Public Library hold list (a couple hundred long!) or download an e-version. **Late September discussion group will be offered twice: once after church and one evening.**

From Good Reads rated 4.4 out of 5:

At the age of thirty-six, on the verge of completing a decade's worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor making a living treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. Just like that, the future he and his wife had imagined evaporated. *When Breath Becomes Air*, which features a Foreword by Dr. Abraham Verghese and an Epilogue by Kalanithi's wife, Lucy, chronicles Kalanithi's transformation from a naïve medical student "possessed," as he wrote, "by the question of what, given that all organisms die, makes a virtuous and meaningful life" into a young neurosurgeon at Stanford, guiding patients toward a deeper understanding of death and illness, and finally into a patient and a new father to a baby girl, confronting his own mortality.



What makes life worth living in the face of death? What do you do when the future, no longer a ladder toward your goals in life, flattens out into a perpetual present? What does it mean to have a child, to nurture a new life as another fades away? These are some of the questions Kalanithi wrestles with in this profoundly moving, exquisitely observed memoir.

Paul Kalanithi died in March 2015, while working on this book, yet his words live on as a guide and a gift to us all. "I began to realize that coming face to face with my own mortality, in a sense, had changed nothing and everything," he wrote. "Seven words from Samuel Beckett began to repeat in my head: 'I can't go on. I'll go on.'" *When Breath Becomes Air* is an unforgettable, life-affirming reflection on the challenge of facing mortality and on the relationship between doctor and patient, from a gifted writer who became both.

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Financial Report

Summertime is upon us and vacation takes many of us away from Sunday services. However, staff, building and fixed administration costs continue. You can help out by providing post-dated cheques or by making use of automatic withdrawals via PAR. Your support is appreciated – every dollar helps.

YTD Income: \$ 156,570
 Expenses: \$ 172,058
 Deficit: \$ 15,488

Progressive Fundraising Shopping Card Program

The shopping card program provides cash to the church for each card purchased by a member of the congregation. The purchaser gets to use the full value of the card purchased.

The plan is to place an order for cards on the last Sunday of the month. Because of the cost of shipping the cards from Vancouver, a minimum order of \$2000 has been set. It has been a struggle each month to reach the \$2000 limit.

We encourage you to buy cards for places where you shop. Eight or nine orders are normally submitted for each order submitted to Vancouver. If the congregation fully supported the program there should be fifty to one hundred orders each month. Many may not be aware that the church now has an option for payment for the cards to be paid by credit card using PayPal. The church pays a fee of 1.6% for these credit card payments. This allows the purchaser to get credit card points while supporting the church through card purchases. The PayPal option requires payment be made through the church office. A receipt issued is then exchanged at the card desk for the purchases. This option will be available on our website in the Fall.

Payment for shopping cards (not Co-op cards) can either be made when the cards are ordered or when the cards are picked up. Order forms are available at a table in Wild Rose Hall usually before and after the church service. The order form requires a name and the date only. If you have any questions talk to Dave Walling on the card desk.

OUTREACH CONNECTION — Life, Love and Sharing

Outreach has had a very busy spring. We have received notification of being awarded a refugee family; we have provided monthly bus passes and breakfast bags to Crescent Heights School students; and we helped to provide calculators and other supplies to evacuated Fort McMurray students who were attending Crescent Heights High School.

Welcome to Lana Skauge and Jim Sangster to the Outreach Team. Also, Kim Holmes-Younger is now the Chair of our petal group, Affirm.

Crescent Heights High School

We would like to take this opportunity to thank one of our members, Kelsey Lewis. Kelsey came to us through her connection with Crescent Heights High School as the school and family liaison, where she held that position for the past year. With her extensive knowledge of the students, their families and staff at the school, Kelsey was able to help to provide Wild Rose with valuable information about the needs of the students. Her connection has been vital for planning, delivering resources, and supporting. Wild Rose continues to provide the school with everything from calculators and bus tickets to breakfast bags.

Although we are all saddened by Kelsey's move to another school, Outreach is glad to announce that our ongoing partnership with Crescent Heights High School will continue. We are excited to welcome **Cory Hall**, the new Instructional Support Worker at Crescent Heights. We are sure that Cory's enthusiasm and compassion will enrich our Outreach connection with Crescent Heights High School. In the fall, we are planning to further strengthen our connection by organizing volunteering opportunities for the youth and our church.

Prairie Rose Syrian Refugee Project

We were excited to receive notification that our Syrian refugee family is in the process of coming. They are currently awaiting medical approval. The family is made up of a mom, dad and two elementary aged school boys. The committees continue to prepare for our family's arrival. Thank you to everyone who has donated time, resources and supplies. As part of preparing for our refugee family we are trying to provide some basic electronic capabilities. We know that being able to maintain links to their old life is a very high priority for refugee families, and so we are trying to give them cost effective ways to do so. We want to find a flat screen TV and a smartphone. If you have one you would be willing to donate or sell for a reasonable price, please let us know the make and model. We will choose which to use based on app and data connection capabilities. Email (tom@prairiesky.ca) or Paula at the church office@wildroseunited.ca.

For more information about the refugee committee, please contact Joan, Dora or Mona at: pswrrefugees@gmail.com